

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Ship Runs Aground in the Approach to Sulina	DATE DISTR.	1 July 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED

Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Approach to Sulina: [redacted] ship went aground in mud at 1400 hours on 25 March 1955 at 45°17' North, 29°48' East. The ship was on course [redacted] to Galati via the Sulina mouth of the Danube River. The weather was foggy. 25X1
2. A short time after going aground, six armed and very fast speedboats passed at a distance. They were assumed to have reported the presence of the ship to the authorities by radio, for the ship was later approached by Soviet customs guard motorboats from Lake Sazik. These boats were different from the speedboats seen previously. 25X1
3. One of the customs boats came alongside to examine the ship's position. The captain of this motorboat wore a uniform similar to that of Soviet naval officers. [redacted] the position where the ship ran aground was shown as nine-ton fathoms deep on the Admiralty chart. [redacted] the area was filled with mud from the Danube and the chart should be corrected. 25X1
4. The customs motorboat was from 30 to 35 meters in length, was slightly higher at the bow than in the stern, was painted a light gray color, and flew the Soviet flag. It had one stack and one mast. Radar was enclosed in a round white cover at the top of the mast. There was a small gun at both bow and stern. 25X1
5. The ship tried for four hours to get free, and failing, requested the aid of a salvage tugboat. One arrived on the evening of the following day and freed the ship in about one-half hour. During the time that the ship was aground one of the customs guard boats stayed in the vicinity. After the salvage one of these boats followed the ship into Sulina. 25X1
6. A middle-aged man by the name of Aleksander Vasiliyevich was captain of the salvage tug. The tug was about 40 meters long, slightly higher at

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the bow than in the stern, and painted a light gray color. There was a sheet metal bulwark, 60 cm high, around the deck; it had scuppers at the base for clearing water. The tug had radio direction finding gear. It had no armament. [redacted] During the salvage operations a Soviet plane coming from the direction of Odessa flew very high over the ship.

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7. Control and Security Measures at Sulina: The crew was assembled in the main cabin and the ship searched. The money and cigarettes, with the exception of a daily ration of ten cigarettes per man, were put in a cabinet which was then sealed. At Galati the ship and crew were subjected to the same formalities.
8. [redacted] sailing on the Danube River, [redacted] a red colored ore was being transported to the Soviet Union in lighters towed by Soviet tugboats.

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